prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM was constituted on 31.1.2007 and had held four meetings on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008.

In the meeting of GOM held on 12.9.2007, presentations were made separately by representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations. During this meeting. GOM interacted with the representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Associations (IDMA), Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). GoM also heard the views of NGOs namely Centre for Consumer Education, Research, Teaching Training and Testing (CONCERT), Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE). The representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations have expressed their perspective regarding the proposals made in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 including Price Control. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, GOM constituted on 31.1.2007 has not yet made its recommendations to the Cabinet.

After the formation of the new Government, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has recommended on 12.06.2009 for continuation of the Group of Ministers constituted to consider the National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM takes a decision in this regard.

Irregularities in fertilizer subsidy

†*489. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the subsidy being provided by the Ministry is given to the fertilizer producing companies and the remaining 20 per cent is given after the report from State Governments is received;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that most of the fertilizer producing companies receiving subsidies are non-existent; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is considering investigation of irregularities prevalent in fertilizer subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Government gives subsidy on Urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), 12 grades of NPK Complexes, Mono-Ammonium Phosphate MAP, Triple Super Phosphate (TSP), Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP). As regard Urea under the New Pricing Scheme, fertilizer subsidy is released to the manufacturers of Urea on 100% basis on the receipt of Urea in the Districts. The 100% release is on the basis of *ad hoc* notified rates of subsidy. The concession rates are finalized on quarterly basis based on the escalation/de-escalation in the fuel/feedstock prices. The difference of subsidy is paid or recovered from the manufacturers. Under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled P&K fertilizers, the manufacturers/importers DAP, MOP, NPK Complexes, MAP, TSP and Ammonium Sulphate are provided 'On Account' payment of 85% (90% with Bank Guarantee) of the concession amount month-wise on receipt of the fertilizers in the states *w.e.f.* 1.12.2008. Prior to that, the 'On Account' payment was released on the sale of the fertilizers. In the case of SSP, the 'On Account' payment is released on the basis of sales of the fertilizers. The balance 15%-10% payment of concession is released to the manufacturers/importers of P&K Fertilizers after the State Governments certify the receipt/sale of the fertilizers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Department of Fertilizers investigates complaints regarding alleged irregularities by the fertilizer companies in claiming payment of concession.

Arrest of agents and without-ticket travellers

†*490. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of agents and passengers travelling on other's tickets and without tickets have been arrested by Railways in the third week of July, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of arrested agents and passengers travelling on other's tickets and without tickets from 5 July 2009 till date and the details zone-wise and division-wise; and

(d) whether any order has been issued by the Ministry in this regard in July, 2009; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Apprehension of touts/agents selling tickets in fictitious names and detection of passengers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.